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ALPINE ZONE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL RANGE¹

This attractive booklet describes certain aspects of the geology, climate and organisms of the Presidential Range of New Hampshire. There is a brief section on mammals, birds and insects, but most of the space is devoted to plants. Included is a checklist of plants of the alpine zone with photographs, descriptions and discussions of a number of them. There is also an interesting discussion of the ecology of the region, a topic on which Dr. Bliss speaks with authority.

The descriptions and photographs of the plants should be helpful to a beginner to the area. However, the ranges of many of the plants are much more extensive than is indicated. For example, *Salix Uva-ursi* is stated to be "common in Alpine Garden near some of the streams and also on the summits of Mts. Franklin and Pleasant." Actually this plant, as noted by Pease in his "Vascular Flora of Coos County," is common throughout the alpine region, extending from Mt. Madison to Mt. Clinton and descending quite low on open ridges and ravines.

The booklet contains a number of errors and omissions. Of *Potentilla Robbinsiana*, the most interesting plant in the Range, it is stated "that the only place in the world it occurs . . . is at the east end of Mt. Monroe cone." Actually it also occurs on the Franconia Range and is represented from there by a number of collections. He states of *Geum Peckii* "restricted to the Presidential and Franconia Ranges of the White Mountains." It occurs at several lowland stations between these ranges, on Cannon Mt., for example, and also

on Brier Island, Nova Scotia, as is noted in Gray's Manual of Botany 8th Edition.

The most notable omission in the checklist of plants found in the alpine zone is *Rhinanthus borealis*, but there are a number of others, examples of which are *Claytonia caroliniana*, *Ribes glandulosum* and *Viburnum edule*. Plants typical of the subalpine spruce-fir forest are noted with an asterisk, whereas alpine plants are not thus designated. However, there is some confusion in this procedure. Thus we find *Carex atratiformis*, known from New Hampshire in only one limited locality near Mt. Monroe, indicated as characteristic of the spruce-fir forest while *Carex brunnescens* is designated as limited to the alpine zone. (*Carex brunnescens* var. *sphaerostachya* is found at low elevations. It would have been better to list the Alpine plant as *C. brunnescens* var. *brunnescens*.)

The booklet has a good index, and if the above limitations are kept in mind, should be most useful to anyone wishing an introduction to the flora of the Presidential Range.

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¹Alpine Zone of the Presidential Range, L. C. Bliss, Urbana, Ill., 67 pages, 58 photographs, \$1.25.